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# The Record

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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 10, 1905.

## THE DOMESTIC SERVANT QUESTION.

The Wide Discussion evoked in various Sections; Its Importance to Us.

Many of the leading papers of Chicago, New York, New Orleans, and Richmond have recently discussed at length the alleged inefficiency, unreliability, and general worthlessness of domestic servants. The wide multiplication of apartment houses or flats is attributed to the vexations incident to the employment of house servants.

### EVILS OF FLAT LIVING.

The increase of apartment houses is more of an evil, than an agency of good. Their increase is to be deplored as they tend to destroy the charm of private home life characteristic of the dwelling. The bonds of mutual regard which often bind together the members of the best families to their

in more menial service. This if true, is supremely foolish: the washer-woman, the clerk, the mechanic, the laborer, boot-black, the minister and all other professional men are alike workers, servants. Honest work without regard to its character is honorable. There is a dignity attached to work of any kind however much it may besmirch the person or clothing.

There is nothing to remind one of uncleanliness on the dollars which are thereby earned, by honest toil. Character and reputation are the true passports to real worth, and the only proper standard by which to measure manhood. All cannot secure government employment; the trades unions bar us; we are losing our hold on the menial openings we once held. All cannot enter professions with almost every avenue closed against us, it is becoming a burning query what shall the colored man and woman do to insure and honest livelihood. Schools of domestic science are sorely needed for our people, where they could be taught work and how to do it. Something along this line must be done, or we will be practically ruined.

It is said by the scholarly sociologist Prof. Kelly Miller, that there are nearly 25,000 colored working women in the city of Washington and more than twenty thousand of this number are engaged in domestic service, many efficient; but many very inefficient, who are being relegated to idleness in consequence of their inefficiency. It is passing strange that the friends of the Negro in their great anxiety to educate him have overlooked this feature of his and her education. The question of the hour is how to make the ten thousand surplus women of this city self sustaining schools of domestic science are sorely needed. This is the demand of the times, practical industrial education. In but few schools has there been any effort to instruct along this line; this is very unfortunate. Washington greatly needs such a school. Here is an opportunity for some practical philanthropist, nothing would do more for the uplift of hundreds, nay thousands of worthy young colored women who drift from rural homes to the city, allured by advanced wages. They should be aided in every way to fit themselves for efficient service, which would place their services in demand and thereby enable the race to retain the only avenue to support open to the masses. The effort to place all Negro men and women in the same category of menials will utterly fail. Those of us more favored must disdain to draw a line between those less fortunate than ourselves. This

such flimsy and false pretense about to prove a boomerang. The Board of Education has allowed itself to be forced into a ridiculous illogical position, in its endeavor to prevent the boomerang from where it belongs—on the Director's head. It is said that the Board undertook to frighten the Director by dismissing Mrs. Cooper, by a threat, under the form of a vote to be relieved of further control of the M St. School if she retained. It is a pity the Board did not see its way clear to grant its request, instead of lowering its dignity by a clumsy attempt to do the director's bungling at possible methods.

Never before, heard of mandating a teacher for being pathetic? In doing this the Board has unwittingly paid Mrs. Cooper the highest compliment it could. That reprimand furnishes the best testible argument for her retention and the Board can at least be commended upon its remarkable attempt to unheard of gymnastic turning a foward and backward landing on its feet in the right. But for the "sympathetic" vote of the principal at M Street the hopeless and helpless of the lowly would be deprived of secondary education. It seems very inconsistent for the Board of Education here at the Nation's Capital to subscribe to a doctrine so utterly uneducational. The report of glaring inconsistencies and clearly on its face an attempt at "whitewash" the director's conduct. Although they are on trial, no formal charges have been preferred against them. The report attempts to acquit the director of inferential charges which reasonable observers of the public had tacitly brought in their minds. The patrons of the school and the Colored citizens of the city, generally, take issue with the report. They do not have confidence in the director. They do not believe in the M St. Schools and do not believe in all matters pertaining to the M St. High School he has been shown to be sense of his high responsibility as director and with the object of the best best scholarship line in this school, the education to the community standing. Three reports, namely 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.



The Italians, and the rural house servants in all light mental service, as well as heavy labor.

Many employers do not know how to treat their servants. Many of them exhibit violent tempers, magnify every blunder, find fault perpetually, and play the tyrant constantly. Such persons invariably have trouble in retaining good servants. Men and women who are industrious hesitate long before leaving an employer where they are kindly treated and promptly paid. We know a lady in a suburb of the Capital, whose kind treatment of her help has become proverbial; so that a score of the best servants are constantly on the alert for a vacancy that they may secure employment by her. To have a good, faithful, honest servant is a valuable possession which some employers do not realize.

#### INEFFICIENT EMPLOYEES.

In all justice it must be said that there is a class of servants who do not mean to earn their wages, they are idle, untruthful and utterly irresponsible. They are prompt in nothing save in demanding their pay. It is dishonest to engage to do a given service, and then refuse or neglect to perform that service satisfactorily. The house servant who expects to attend balls every night, visit some place of amusement every week, go on a half dozen excursions every season, and attend some theatre every time the doors are opened, will find him or herself summarily discharged. Every vacancy thus created is filled by some German, Irishman, or Italian, not to mention the coming Japanese and Filipino. The principle of the survival of the fittest obtains here. If these foreigners can do domestic or any other kind of work better than we can, no time will be lost in displacing us. There was a time when there was not a white coachman to be seen on the avenue; when nearly all the barbers, waiters and boot blacks were colored; but those days are gone to return no more. Strangers from beyond the seas have crowded out the colored man; white nurses were unknown except those imported by foreign ministers. Visit the parks now and note the change.

It is becoming quite a serious question to the serving class of our people. A silly notion prevails in certain quarters that a man and woman must be rated by the kind of work they do. Employment has nothing to do with character. It is said that some persons in government employ attempt to place themselves above those who work

its importance demands and the result is, our inability to hold a sphere of usefulness which once we monopolized. Let us move in this matter.

#### The High School Investigation a Room-erang.

Last week we saw fit to endorse and commend the attitude of the Board of Education as to the resolution adopted, respecting the uniform course of study and equal opportunity without regard to race, color, or previous condition, for which the board claims they have stood and do now stand. Any other position on that subject would be so discreditable and such an open acknowledgement of incapacity on their part as must have created a and persistent demand for resignations or removals. The mere fact, therefore of their adopting such a carefully-worded and unnecessary resolution arouses some suspicion in the minds of the thoughtful; especially, as the issues involved in the M Street High School investigation did not require any such declaration. The mere refusal to adopt the recommendation of the Director of High Schools for the removal of the M Street principal, coupled with a strong vindication of the principal's contention, would have placed the board in better odor with the patrons of that school. It would have been far more effective in convincing the logical and honest mind that the board means to offer equality of opportunity and curriculum, than their wordy statement to that effect. The force of that statement is very much dissipated and fails to carry conviction to the mind, when read in conjunction with the report adopted by the committee of the whole, which has for weeks been conducting an investigation into certain charges preferred against Mrs. Anna J. Cooper, principal at M St., by Percy M. Hughes Director of High Schools.

It must be remembered that this investigation has been dragged along for almost a year before the High School Committee of the Board. Why such a hardship and imposition has been inflicted upon principal, pupils and patrons alike at M Street, is hard to account for upon any other supposition than the apparent desire, somewhere, to give the director every possible chance to vindicate his untenable position, even at the expense of the proper training of hundreds of young, tender, impressionable minds. It is clear from an analysis of the published report that Mrs. Cooper has met and demolished every charge. The attempt to get rid of her upon

acter ext universally known by all capable, reputable people who know her. Hoping that the Board has lack of "a proper spirit and loyalty to the work of the members of the faculty. The Board of Education alone the remedy for this condition is hoped that this duty will be performed. Incompetent and unsympathetic should not be allowed to children. The real feature of the report is found in the recommendation to retain Mr. Boley. In this the Board acts wisely rendered null and of no effect. "talky-talky" which preceded the vote for retention was unanimous. The volumes for the splendid work of the influence of our representative Bundy and Mrs. Francis, succeeded so admirably against tremendous odds.

(Continued from First Page)  
usually and financially; enterprising, law abiding and honest. Boley has among its business prizes everything that is to be found in any town of its size and two years old in any State of the United States, for instance, mention besides grocery and stores, one hotel, first-class particular, at which we stop, office, Negro depot, age churches—Baptist, A. M., and M. E., one school, 100 regular attendance, two, one drug store, one doctor, yer. The town site agent is a man who has charge of the town site and sells city real cheap. Mr. T. M. Haynes is master of Boley as well as site commissioner. Mr. Boley, a pioneer citizen, is the founder to-day its leading citizen. People in the several states, those who contemplate moving looking for good locations, certainly find it greatly to the advantage to write Mr. Haynes who is glad to give you any information desired, as he has under him 11,000 acres of the finest land to be found anywhere in the west, which can be purchased. You can buy first-class land to \$20 per acre. Mr. Haynes is a perfect gentleman in every respect straight-forward in all of his dealing. He has already looked 50 grants this fall who will be around Boley this fall and